



The
Van Diemen's
Land Company

Founded 1825 by Royal Charter of King George IV
ARBN 16 009 475 601

MEDIA RELEASE

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VDL SENSITIVE TO DEVILS

The Van Diemen's Land Co says it is working closely with the Save the Devil Program and is very sensitive to their habitat needs.

The VDL Co Chief Executive Mr Michael Guerin said today plans for the dairy conversion and expansion of the Woolnorth property were based on sound scientific assessments and sustainability principles.

"The VDL Co plans are being designed to ensure that the healthy status of the Tasmanian Devils on Woolnorth is maintained," Mr Guerin said.

"The Company has been working for more than five years with the Save the Devil Program and will ensure that our future development plans are consistent with maintaining a healthy Devil population," he said.

"VDL has a long history and embraces that heritage. We want to create a modern efficient dairy farm development with a strong positive brand. We have arguably the biggest and healthiest devils in Tasmania right here on the property and we're confident that the Devils and farming can coexist.

Mr Guerin said he was disappointed at the alarmist criticisms of their proposals, despite extensive consultation with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and significant changes to the VDL's development plans to comprehensively deal with scientific requirements for conservation.

"We have been in discussion with the EPBC and will soon finalise the referral to the Federal Government for the formal EPBC assessment. At that point, all the documentation will be on the public record and everyone will have a chance to comment.

Mr Guerin said the VDL Co has been working with key stakeholders for more than 18 months and will fully brief the public and potential investors about its final plans.

"In addition to the important socio-economic benefits of the planned development, our documents will also highlight a commitment of a very large area of our land to formal reserves to help protect the habitat of Devils and other species," Mr Guerin said.

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BACKGROUND

The Van Diemen's Land Company (VDL) is the largest dairy farming operation in Australia, and one of the largest dairy operations in the world.

VDL was established by Royal Charter in Tasmania in 1825 by King George IV and is believed to be the only Royal Charter Company still operating on part of its original land grant.

It currently has 24 farms located in northwest Tasmania, including the historic Woolnorth property. In 2011, the dairy operation produced over 5 million kilograms of milk solids.

VDL is focused on providing sustainable improvements in environmental practices, animal welfare, productivity and profitability in the future.